



Rep. John Shadegg

Press Release

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Shadegg Urges Strong FCC Action After Super Bowl Halftime Stunt

Calls it an "Issue of Decency" in a Letter to Chairman Powell

Washington – US Congressman John Shadegg sent a letter to the FCC today, calling for the strongest possible punishment for CBS in response to the broadcast of singer Janet Jackson's lewd display during the Super Bowl halftime show.

The text of the letter follows:

Dear Chairman Powell,

Last night's halftime show at the Super Bowl was an outrage and affront to viewers across the nation. As you have already noted, what happened during the halftime show was "classless, crass, and deplorable." I commend you for opening an investigation by the Commission.

The Super Bowl halftime show, coupled with the use of the "F" word on television twice within the past year, proves that indecency in broadcasting has gotten out of control. The failure of the FCC to enforce high standards for broadcast decency sends the wrong message to the entertainment industry. I do not believe that this is an issue of free speech or censorship, but one of decency. Americans and their children should not be subject to this kind of language and vulgarity while watching prime time television.

I call upon the FCC to crack down on those responsible for this behavior. I believe a dramatic penalty should be imposed against CBS, including the maximum possible fine to discourage this type of conduct in the future. The disgusting actions of those involved detracted from the real stars of last night's game, the New England Patriots and the Carolina Panthers, and turned a great American tradition into a debased spectacle.

Please advise me immediately about what steps the FCC has the authority to take against CBS in order to punish it for its conduct, and to send a strong message to discourage future similar conduct. I would appreciate a response by phone within the next two days, and a written response within a week. Thank you for your attention to this matter.